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Dated: August 15, 2005

Signature: 

(Paul C. Craane)

Docket No.: 30607/40513
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Jaume Prat Terradas et al.

Application No.: 10/510,423

Confirmation No.: 4333

Filed: April 21, 2005

Art Unit: 1652

For: PEDAL SECURITY SYSTEM

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (modified). It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)). Consequently, no fee is due.

Applicant submits herewith copies of the foreign patent publications listed on the Form PTO-1149 (modified) in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

In regard to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3), as to German Published Application No. DE 196 06 427, applicants cite U.S. Patent No. 6,112,616, which patent is an English-language counterpart to the '427 publication.

In regard to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3), as to German Published Application No. DE 100 17 794 and in addition to the comments above as to German Published Application No. DE 196 06 427, a concise explanation of the relevance of the '427 and '794 publications was incorporated into applicants' specification. It is reproduced herein for the examiner's convenience:

The prior art provides different pedal security systems. These are mostly expensive lever constructions which move the pedal away from the driver in case of an accident based on the movement or deformation of the vehicle structure. It is a further technical alternative to blockade the pedal so that it cannot be moved in the direction of the driver. The pedal security system of the DE 196 06 427 discloses a pedal mounting which releases the pedal axis in case of an accident. To this end, the pedal axis is mounted in a construction which displaces in case of an accident so that the opening for mounting the pedal axis releases the same downwardly. Then, the pedal can no longer be rotated in the direction of the driver by means of the connected linkage via the pedal axis and thus cause injuries. This assembly is, however, connected to different disadvantages. On the one hand, this pedal security system is provided by an expensive technical construction which is connected to high production and maintenance costs. It is a further disadvantageous that the pedal is freely moveable in the passenger compartment after release of the pedal axis. This uncontrolled free movement can also lead to serious injuries of the driver.

A further pedal security system is disclosed by the DE 100 17 794. This pedal security system is made of a bearing brush for the pedal axis comprising a predetermined braking point. In case of an accident, the pedal axis is mechanically loaded by the connection for instance with the vehicle structure. This mechanical loading leads to a failure of the bearing brush for the pedal axis based on the presence of said predetermined braking point. As soon as the bearing brush fails, the pedal axis as well as the whole pedal is released. Now, the pedal is only connected with the linkage, for example of the clutch or the brake system. As already mentioned above in connection with the other pedal security system, the pedal is now freely moveable and can also lead to injuries of the driver. It is also disadvantageous that the bearing brush for mounting the pedal axis is destroyed into pieces in case of an accident which also can lead to injuries of the passengers.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

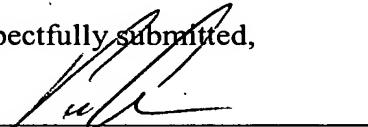
It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 30607/40513. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: August 15, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By


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Form PTO-1449 (Modified)

Atty. Docket No.
30607/40513Serial No.
10/510,423

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant(s)
Jaume Prat Terradas et al.Filing Date
April 21, 2005Art Unit
1652

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Document Number	Issue or Publication Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If Appropriate)
	6,112,616	09/05/2000	Schonlau et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Translation Yes	No
	DE 196 06 427	08/28/1997	Germany	see US 6,112,616	
	DE 100 17 794	10/18/2001	Germany	see IDS	

OTHER DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED: